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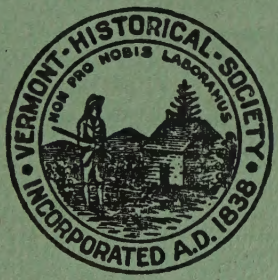

"Freedom and Unity" 1943
An Archives for Vermont
The Farmers' Museum
The "Swiss" Policy of Vermont
One Hundred Fifth Annual Meeting
The President's Welcome
The First War Year

PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIETY

MARCH

1943

A WORD OF APPRECIATION AND *AN ADDITIONAL OFFER*

Just a month ago we sent out a small folder announcing our two new publications of the past year: Walter J. Coates' *Bibliography of Vermont Poetry* (vol. 1, $2.00) and the *Survey of Norwich Vermont* ($1.50). More as an afterthought than anything else we appended a list of town histories of which we had some extra copies on the shelf and made you some special prices on them, thinking they might have slipped your attention earlier:

	Formerly	
Newton, W. M., History of Barnard,	$17.50	$6.00
Vail, H. H., History of Pomfret,	15.00	5.00
Newton, E. H., History of Marlboro,	6.00	3.50
Cudworth, A. E., History of Londonderry,	4.50	3.00
Batcheller, B. C., People of Wallingford,	6.00	3.00

Well, you fairly surprised us with your response. Not only did orders begin to roll in for the *Bibliography* and *Survey*, but for the histories as well. Many members had evidently forgotten that a one-third discount, applying to nearly every volume we ever published, is one of the many privileges of membership. That one-third off the already low prices seemed to take hold.

"I've always wanted to own one of these histories, and here you are practically giving them away," wrote one reader as he ordered three.

Another ordered one of everything on the list, then returned to buy four additional copies of each of the Barnard and Pomfret sets. Says he'll be back for more.

Our main aim is to get our publications off our shelves and into the hands of readers who will appreciate and value them. So here's another chance for you.

First, the *Vermont Census of 1800*.

This folio volume of 233 pages was produced to sell at $15.00. It was realized that few could have it at that, and $5.00 was set as the publication price. But we have some left, and they can be had, till sold, for $3.00 a copy (that's two, for members).

Second, here are five of our most recent books, and one classic. Let's lump them as a group at $1.50. This means a single dollar bill will bring any one of them to a member, or all six for five dollars even. Here they are:

Kent, D. B. E., *Vermonters*.
Well over a thousand thumbnail biographies.

Cooley, Eliz., *Vermont Imprints Before 1800*.
The authoritative work on the subject.

Glover, Waldo, *The Sleeping Sentinel*.
The true tale of the Lincoln pardon.

Moulton, Sherman, *The Boorn Mystery*.
A detective story that was true, with a "murdered man" who came back to life in time to save his killer from death.

Carroll, D. B., *Unicameral Legislature in Vermont*.
A careful study, widely used.

Chittenden, L. E., *The Capture of Ticonderoga*.

Mail all orders to THE VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Montpelier, Vermont.

Proceedings

of the

VERMONT

Historical Society

MARCH

1943

TABLE OF CONTENTS

"Freedom and Unity": 1943 3
By *Samuel S. Stratton*

An Archives for Vermont 10
By *C. C. Crittenden*
With an introduction by the *Editor*

The Farmers' Museum 17
By *Clifford Lord*

A Document Illustrative of the "Swiss" Policy of Vermont 25
With a map
Edited by *Chilton Williamson*

One Hundred Fifth Annual Meeting: President's Welcome 34
By *Leon S. Gay*

The First War Year 37
By *Earle Williams Newton*

Reports of the Secretary and Treasurer 45

Postscript 50

List of Members 54

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1943

NEW SERIES MARCH VOL. XI NO. 1

"FREEDOM AND UNITY": 1943

ADDRESS TO VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
State House, *January 19, 1943*

By SAMUEL S. STRATTON

No topic could be more pertinent at the moment than a re-assessment of the significance of our Vermont motto for the modern crisis. Issues one hundred and fifty years ago were many of them supernational, as today. Dr. Stratton's call to the building of effective international cooperation based on freedom and unity is therefore more than an exaltation for the past. It is a clue for the future. Editor.

WHEN I was honored with the invitation to address this more than century old historical society, I felt it would be presumptuous of me to accept. It seemed to me that no one but a Vermonter should be privileged to meet with you who know so intimately the villages and towns, the traditions and folk lore, and the lives of those sterling pioneers who created and shaped the destiny of this state. But shortly after I received the invitation to be present here tonight, I became a Vermonter. Since I am a Vermonter gladly, and by independent choice, perhaps I shall be forgiven for having, as you historians say, settled in the Champlain Valley only nineteen days ago.

At my first meeting with the undergraduates of Middlebury College, I stated that no man could, with credit, serve such an institution if he lacked an intimate knowledge of its history and its traditions, and of the men and women who have molded its character and its spirit. I said that I could not pretend that I now have that knowledge, but that I should strive to gain such intimacy, and with it the inspiration and courage of the founders and builders of the college. What I said at that time applies, I think, equally to the responsibility I have accepted in becoming a citizen of this state. Thanks to the work and publications of the Vermont Historical Society, I shall find the task I have set for myself a pleasant and productive one.

I have always been interested and sometimes slightly irritated in the failure of the citizens of other sections of this country to differentiate among the New England states as to speech, traditions, economic and social background, and other factors so patent to us New Englanders. To me, Vermonters are readily distinguishable from their neighbors. New Englanders in general exhibit an independence of thought. Vermonters are fearless in expressing their thoughts, and in translating them into action. New Englanders in general avoid the flowery phrase, the circuitous approach. Vermonters, never guilty of rudeness, get to the point with pithy directness. Most of us in this section of the country place high values on individual liberty and freedom. For Vermonters, these are words of deep significance. They are the heritage of the free born people of our republic. For Vermonters, these are not words to be dusted off and presented on national holidays; they are not phrases reserved for the dark days of bloody combat. The dignity of man as an individual, based on equality, liberty and freedom: freedom from fear, freedom from bureaucratic restraint, freedom to speak his mind, freedom to work out his own destiny: for Vermonters, these are innate principles. They are the day-to-day precepts by which a man lives.

In July, 1777, when Burgoyne was sweeping up the Champlain Valley, fearless citizens convened at Windsor to draft a constitution. That constitution was adopted the very day, July 7, 1777, that Burgoyne received his first set-back in the battle of Hubbardton. In that document, drafted while the valiant Seth Warner was fighting a rear guard action, human slavery was prohibited and manhood suffrage without property qualification was established. No precedent existed for such bold affirmations. "Free men" was the term used to describe

the people bound by the constitution, and to this day, as you know, the new voter's oath is the "Freeman's Oath."

But if a people lives by a code based solely on individual liberty and complete independence of action, the result is either anarchy or a society impoverished economically and spiritually by blind and greedy isolation. The founders of this state, in their wisdom, were careful to avoid fashioning such a grim and self-destructive commonwealth.

From the adoption of the constitution in 1777 to admission into the Federal Union in 1791, Vermont's leading citizens strove for unity. Rival factions within the sovereign nation of Vermont reconciled their differences and harmoniously joined in the common task of creating a unified government of free men. Subversive elements were suppressed. But unity within the state was not an end in itself. These men rejected isolation and sought to be included, first in the union brought together under the loose "Articles of Confederation," and then in the "United States of America."

It seems incredible today that there could have been any choice other than to ask for admission into the union. But I submit that the same selfish motives which in 1919 blinded us to the need for international unity tempted the founders of this state. It was questionable in 1791 whether the United States of America had the quality of survival as a strong nation. It took great courage and great faith to believe in the soundness and potential strength of the newborn U.S.A. *Some* Vermonters in 1791 were jealous of their sovereignty and reluctant to permit their economic and political future to be determined by legislation not entirely of their own making. But wisdom and tolerance prevailed, over short-sighted greed. Freedom and unity, the motto chosen for the state, became the guiding principles of its citizens. Freedom and the independence to use that freedom to the full extent our Constitution and Bill of Rights provided, but withal, recognition of the will of the majority, and of the strength that is born of unity — these, I believe, are precepts we can well afford to reflect upon in the months and years that now approach.

It is said of my own generation that we won the war, but lost the peace. But I have never been convinced that the peace was lost at the conference tables of 1919, and I am certain that the plight of the people of this globe would have been immeasurably worse if we had lost the war. Please do not misunderstand me. Our refusal to join the League of Nations was, I believe, tragic. But despite our childish selfishness, the League was created and a machinery was devised for

promoting peace and harmony among peoples. Today as in 1917, our first and mightiest efforts must be to defeat our bitterly resisting enemies. But such determined struggle does not preclude giving thought to the morrow. With victory ours, how shall we prolong an era of peace? How shall we insure the uninterrupted pursuit of life, liberty, and happiness for a sufficient time to prevent the utter chaos that an early recurring world war would create? This question must be kept uppermost in the heart and mind of every citizen. We must not permit it to be answered by groups of selfish politicians, by vested interests, or by idealists and pacifists.

I do not profess to be able to answer this question, and I should be skeptical of any categorical answer put forth at this time. I do believe, however, that as individuals we should search our minds and hearts to determine our fundamental personal convictions as to the kind of world we want to live in once victory is achieved. A story is told of the British flight officer who each time he prepared to take off for a bombing expedition over Germany, was seen to place a small parcel in his pocket. The ground crew became more and more curious and finally asked the sergeant-general for an explanation. The reply was: "Once the plane gets over the target, he orders — 'Release bombs' — then he leans over the side of the ship and heaves the brick he takes out of his pocket." Asked why he threw the brick, the general replied, "The bomb, that's in line of duty. The brick, that is *personal!*" Our attitude must not merely be in line of duty — it must be *personal.* I take it for granted that we do not want to sell our birthright of constitutional government and of individual freedom as outlined in the Bill of Rights, for the Utopian promises of dreamers. I take it for granted that there is no influential group which would urge that we would draw into our shells with the futile hope that we can preserve our greatness by the tactics of a turtle. Economic nationalism, so tempting to the short-sighted and greedy long ago wrecked the hopes of the men who fashioned the League of Nations. Economic nationalism led first to the unsound tariffs — then to bilateral trade agreements — then to breakdown of international banking devices, finally in central Europe to simple barter and the lowered living standards which are a symptom of such crude economic arrangements. Economic nationalism can always lead only to temporary and impoverished self-sufficiency. The final outcome is economic warfare — retaliation in kind. Economic warfare in turn is but a futile attempt to gain the national prosperity that such tactics deny. Political warfare is the inevitable result

of aggression brought on by despair. The question then resolves itself to the simple query: How can we preserve freedom and unity in the expanded sphere of internationalism?

I have no formula, but I am willing to make suggestions which will perhaps be provocative. In the first place, I suggest that in the League of Nations, in the Bank for International Settlement, in the International Labor Organization, in the World Court, we have at hand machinery for implementing the peace, and that we should not scrap it for new machinery. With certain reservations, I would assert that the breakdown in relations among nations was not the fault of existing international mechanisms, but rather resulted from the lack of earnest desire to make the mechanism work. Our Civil War has not been attributed to a faulty constitution; nor because war broke out between the states did we deem it necessary to change our form of government for some new code of relationship. The alternative to the idea of a League of Nations, under whatever name, is the old balance of power with secret treaties on the side. Unbalanced power might preserve peace. Hitler, I think, is sincere when he proclaims himself a man of peace; but his peace would be a peace based on his power overbalancing that of any possible combination of enemies. Peace dependent on a balance of power is as delicately insecure as the word balance denotes. The slightest shift in the composition of a coalition, and balance is lost. I suggest therefore that we reject the balance of power theory, but that we do not attempt to invent a new formula for international relations. I suggest that we return to an improved League of Nations and to other existing international mechanisms for restoring harmony among nations.

It is urged by some well-meaning people that we must live and let live, that whereas we prefer freedom and democracy, other peoples prefer pseudo-social security, and relief from the necessity of exercising resourcefulness, enterprise, and individual initiative. I suggest that this sort of tolerance, like many virtues, can be carried too far. We could not live half free and half slave in this country in the nineteenth century. Likewise, in a world even now so shrunken in size that one can breakfast in America and dine in England, we cannot safely live half free and half fascist. I do not refer to differences in political nomenclature. It does not take a political scientist to discover in which state the dignity of man before God is of paramount importance, and government merely a tool created by free men to guarantee justice and order. Tyranny, under whatever name, can be discerned by

amateurs. I suggest, therefore, that membership in the new world union must be a privilege accorded only to those nations desirous of working toward the freedom and equality of man, and away from tyranny and despotism. But this sort of thinking implies action we failed to take at the conclusion of World War I. As long as certain nations give no real evidence of forsaking the fascist code, I suggest that they not only be excluded from the society of nations, but be kept powerless to disturb the peace of even their weakest neighbors. Many voices are raised against the thought that we should police the world. I suggest that we and like-minded nations should police the world, and in the manner of an effective police force, we should search all suspect governments and confiscate concealed weapons. Perhaps it was not the Treaty of Versailles, but the lack of enforcement of that document, that gave rise to World War II. I suggest therefore that the peace to come should not be the idealistic peace of disarmament and the brotherhood of man, but must be for an indeterminate time a peace enforced by the power and courage of a group of nations possessed of the common aspiration to develop the freedom and dignity, social and economic progress of men as individuals.

Freedom is a word which slips easily off the tongue, but it is not easy to define. A little girl asked to define salt, said, "It is something you miss when it isn't in the mashed potatoes." Freedom is something a man misses when it isn't a part of his way of life. Perhaps only men who have known freedom, but lost it, have a true conception of its meaning. But if the conception of freedom is difficult to state in words, the environment in which it thrives can be clearly described.

No one should appreciate better than Vermonters the conditions which are basic to the growth and survival of freedom. Foremost, there must be a will for freedom, a bitter resentment of despotism. If the will for freedom is not innate in mankind, and I am of the belief that it is, then we must inculcate this desire in men's hearts by precept and by preaching. But the will for freedom is but one condition germane to its growth. Unless a society is so organized that the full development of man stems from his own enterprise and initiative, freedom cannot be preserved.

I shall name but one more factor inherent in a society of free men. Equal opportunity for education in the humanities, and pure sciences. Note that I said the humanities and pure sciences. The technical education of young Germans has not been neglected, but what do they know of tolerance, what do they know of the philosophy and teach-

ings, of the poetry and writings of the fine minds who in the present have found no good in Nazi doctrines, or in the past have exposed the degradation of ideas now adopted by the Nazis. I submit that organized brutality cannot thrive in a land where men have the opportunity to study the writings of great philosophers and historians, of great authors and poets, or great scientists and theologians, whatever their race or creed.

The forefathers of this state founded a society in which all of these freedom-making factors were recognized. They had the will for freedom, and perpetuated it through their descendants. They provided for individual responsibility and enterprise, and equality of opportunity in their constitution and statutes. They founded schools and colleges, of which Middlebury College was the first, in which man's mind could be enriched and ennobled by an intimate knowledge of the culture and science which measures the progress of mankind.

I suggest, therefore, that the environment essential for the survival of freedom not only be preserved in our own land, but carried by precept and preaching into the far corners of the earth.

Freedom and unity, although basic to world organization, are not concepts to be achieved in absolute terms. Freedom and unity are both relative — they must be appraised in light of many other factors in a given society at a given time. In our own country today, we curtail some aspects of freedom and at the same time unity is more than ever cherished.

If at the peace tables there is created on paper a completely idealistic — unrealistic — world organization, its authors invite subsequent cynicism, indifference and despair. Freedom and unity — the motto of this state — should be the objective for a new society of nations. It is an objective which cannot be attained by written documents or parliamentary innovations. It is an objective for which generations of men of good will must labor with patience, tolerance, and foresightedness. If we resolve as individuals to work in this manner for freedom and unity in the new world order, we may approach fearlessly and with high hopes the peace problems that come with victory.

AN ARCHIVES FOR VERMONT

with SOME PROBLEMS OF STATE ARCHIVAL ADMINISTRATION

By C. C. Crittenden

With an introduction by the Editor

FROM the vast majority of people the word archives will evoke only an uninterested, or at best, puzzled response. And even for those who include the word, somewhat vaguely, in their vocabulary, it has an odor redolent of mustiness.

None the less, archival work has behind it a long tradition of usefulness, for it provides the necessary highly technical care of essential records. And any business man or administrator will attest to the critical functions of records in business or government.

Today, the need for expert record care and servicing has become especially urgent. The need is partly cumulative, partly emergency. History records the rise of an increasingly complicated civilization, which has in turn resulted both in an increasing bulk and an increasing complexity of records. The effect of this has been twofold. First, it has resulted in an almost impossible bulk for historians; secondly it has resulted in at least three nasty problems for administrators and executives generally. The first of these is a constant pressure on office space. The second is the dilemma of destruction versus preservation; whether to preserve enlarging materials at considerable cost, or to destroy them at the risk of losing important reference and legal material. The third is the maddening difficulty of current use. Failing to solve the second dilemma, administrators frequently dump the records in attics, barns, garages — indeed, wherever storage is the cheapest. Not only is this fatal to the preservation of the records, but it makes their use highly difficult, if possible at all.

So much for the historical origins of archival problems. Emergency factors, however, are today playing an even greater role. In wartime, for instance, records accumulate at a startling rate and become a principal headache for administrators. In one single department in Wash-

ington, 81 per cent of all its records, from the eighteenth century to the present, were accumulated in the two short years, 1917–1919. Solution of these problems becomes of definite importance to the prosecution of a war program, and archival matters become "essential legislation." The Selective Service has recognized the critical importance of the issue, and has labelled the National Archives as an "essential agency," quite like a war plant. While states do not accumulate records quite at the rate of the national government, there is an unquestioned acceleration here also.

The modern archivist was born out of the pressing need for a technical solution to the problems of bulk and complexity of records. He arose in answer to the desperate call of the executive, public and private, for salvation from growing mountains of paper.

The archivist, then, is no mere antiquarian, though his job is the dustiest of all. He must not merely preserve records, but must also organize and service them. And paradoxically enough, this may mean destruction of many of them. For to preserve records from hasty disposal and to make them available for effective use, the archivist must solve the problem of bulk. Material must be sorted and classified, and that which is of neither current, legal, nor historical value must be destroyed. Much which is saved can be reduced in bulk by modern reproductive techniques, such as microfilming.

But even beyond the return of the records to usefulness, an archives can accomplish vast savings. Infrequently used records occupy costly office space. Monumentally designed, whether rented or built, the latter has a cost many times per square foot that of adequate fireproof archival storage. Transfer to archives and reduction in bulk by microfilming and destruction have frequently made spectacular economies. In Michigan, in a single department, $6,000 in rents was saved as the result of an archival project.

There is little need to emphasize the distressing and costly congestion in office space in Vermont. It must eventually result in a new office building. It should also result in a permanent archives. Provided an adequate records survey is accomplished in advance, great savings of office space can be made. But the survey must be undertaken in advance, for there is no way of telling, short of detailed examination of the records, which offices are most subject to records reduction, and the extent to which each office must retain its records in its own office. It would be fatal to attempt such a survey, however, except with expert assistance from men of archival training. It is to be hoped that the

Public Records Commission will be enabled to retain such technical aid, and will make such a survey before final plans for any supplementary space are drawn. Both efficiency and economy dictate such an examination.

We are publishing Mr. Crittenden's informative discussion of archival problems in this issue, because the proposition for an adequate archives for Vermont is bound to arise in the near future. If it is undertaken, it should be done with the experience gained in other states in mind. The North Carolina Historical Commission, which is the official archival agency of the state, has been recognized for some time as an outstanding example of successful administration. From it national associations and agencies have drawn their personnel. Its first Executive Secretary, R. D. W. Connor, became the first head of the National Archives in Washington, and subsequently President of the Society of American Archivists. Another, Mr. A. R. Newsome, became the first president of the latter organization, and the present secretary, Mr. Crittenden, was elected the first president of the new Association for State and Local History. No other state body has placed its leaders so highly.

Mr. Crittenden's article elucidates, it is true, the basically technical aspect of archival work. Yet despite the fact that archives are drawn from official files, they are the property of the public. A chief function of the archivist must therefore be not only to service the material for executives, but for historians and the public in general as well. The author displays a refreshing breadth of vision in his call for a coordination of archival and historical work and in his concern for the public relations of archives.

Editor.

PROBLEMS OF STATE ARCHIVAL ADMINISTRATION[1]

The administrative machinery for the handling of state archives varies from one commonwealth to another. Some of us in this field are under departments of archives and history or historical commissions, others are under state libraries, others are under secretaries of state or other officials, while still others are connected with state historical societies. Whatever our connection, however, all of us are faced with certain common problems, a few of which I shall undertake to discuss briefly.

First, and perhaps most fundamental of all, is the problem of winning recognition as the official state archival agency. Nothing is more discouraging than to labor for years in the care of the official records, only to discover that the department upstairs or across the street does not even know that we exist. Most of us at one time or another have learned that important records were being destroyed under our very noses, and have had to take hurried action to save what we could. Buildings or storage rooms to hold public records are often constructed without anyone taking the trouble to ask our advice, though we are supposed to be experts in that field.

There are no simple and easy solutions of the many aspects of this problem. We are compelled to advance slowly, step by step, and sometimes we wonder if we are advancing at all. Basic, however, is the need for proper laws along the lines worked out by Dr. Newsome's Committee on Uniform State Legislation. Such legislation should provide especially that: (a) official records must be preserved, except where their destruction has been duly authorized; (b) useless records may be destroyed according to certain procedure; (c) noncurrent records may be transferred to the archival agency with the consent of the custodian; and (d) the archival agency shall have general supervision over the care, preservation, and disposal of the records of all departments, agencies, and institutions of the state government.

Armed with such legislation, the archivist is in a position to approach many problems. Usually, however, he cannot force issues and often it is best for him not to insist on strict obedience of the law, at least for the time being. Tact and more tact are needed in winning

1. A paper read at the fourth annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists at Montgomery, Alabama, November 12, 1940. Reprinted from *American Archivist.*

the support and co-operation of other departments, and many setbacks are to be expected.

Encouraging is the fact that progress tends to be cumulative. Once it has become customary for such matters to be referred to the archival agency, our authority comes to be increasingly recognized.

Second is the problem of better public relations, a topic admirably and amusingly discussed by Dr. McCain at our meeting a year ago.[2] By nature most of our work is specialized and technical, so that the general public may be expected to know little or nothing about it. Then too, there are so few archivists that we do not now, and probably never will, benefit from the weight of numbers.

Dealing as we do with records relating to the past, we tend constantly to be drawn away from the present. And yet if we are to deal with the public, we cannot afford to become mere mossbacks or antiquarians even though some of our number might find it easy and natural to do so.

Probably there is not one of us who does not have an opportunity to develop better public relations to the advantage of his department. Many of us have a tendency to look down upon genealogists, patriotic groups, and the like. Actually, however, these people can be of real service in winning popular support for our program. We need especially to keep the general public better informed as to what we are doing. Often the masses of the people do not even know that our agencies are in existence, and it is our duty to make them know. The platform, the radio, and the newspaper offer us opportunities in this field. Particularly worthy of our consideration is the issuance of regular press releases along the lines so successfully followed in such states as Missouri and Minnesota. In so far as possible such releases should be closely tied in with our archival work and should seek constantly to drive home the service we perform in preserving the records of the past.

In this connection there would seem to be a real advantage in bringing about a close co-ordination of our archival work with other historical activities in our respective states. Various phases of archival and historical endeavor may be developed so as to supplement and strengthen each other and to develop public support for the entire program. A certain eminent archivist recently said to me, "We are lucky in that our agency does not have to bother with an historical museum."

2. William D. McCain, "The Public Relations of Archival Depositories," *The American Archivist*, III (October, 1940), 235–244.

A museum might have been a bother to him, but it could have done much to interest the public in his work. For the general populace will never see the inside of archives' stack areas or even of search rooms, but tens of thousands of persons will visit annually the displays in historical museums. If these are maintained in connection with archives and if they make a point of displaying significant and timely historical documents, there will be a gain all the way around.

In order to be most effective, a state archival program should be a part of a broad, general plan of historical and archival work. The marking of historic spots, the preservation of historic sites and buildings, the stimulation of local historical society activities, co-operation with patriotic and other organizations, the promotion of the writing of better state and local histories — these, and other similar activities are phases of such a program. Of course, the archival agency will hardly be in a position to engage directly and immediately in all these activities. But the persons who control the agency's policies will do well to think in terms of such a comprehensive program and to promote it as far as possible.

Third and always of great concern is the problem of financing our program. All of us are constantly being forced to give up or postpone some undertaking which, if we could only afford it, would probably be of value. Frequently when we present our case to the state fiscal authorities we get exactly nowhere. Legislatures have a way of becoming economy-minded especially where so-called cultural agencies such as libraries, archives, and museums are concerned.

Obviously there is no magic formula which will solve all our varying problems in this field, but I would like to suggest that the broad, general historical, and archival program mentioned above would go far to build up the needed popular backing for increased financial support.[3]

Lastly, let us consider the problem of the destruction of records. From time to time there has been some discussion of this matter, but I doubt whether any of us have yet faced it realistically. The sheer mass of correspondence files, payroll sheets, vouchers, time reports, and the thousands of other series of records which our government is constantly producing, is destined, if we do not take drastic action, to bury us under a veritable avalanche. At the present rate every one of our state capital cities will eventually be covered by mountains of archives;

3. We omit several paragraphs (not now pertinent because of the dissolution of the WPA projects) relating to the Historical Records Survey. *Editor.*

novelists of the future will write about the last days of Montpelier or Springfield or Annapolis; and archeologists will excavate our remains and attempt to recreate our life before the "archivruption."

The problem is one which calls for bold thinking and drastic action. For the past few years we archivists have laid stress chiefly upon the saving and preserving of records. The public has needed, and still needs, to be made conscious of the value of records in general before it can be ready for an intelligent program for the destruction of certain records in particular. Now, however, while we should continue to educate the public, we ought at the same time to be planning among ourselves what we are going to do to get rid of a large portion of the records. The microfilm will help, and so will other devices and processes. But our chief problem is to work out principles and procedures for the destruction of useless records. There are going to be difficult questions to decide and many of us may find that the action which is called for will trouble our archival consciences. But unless we act promptly and effectively the solution of the problem will continue to go by default, and archives, valuable and worthless, significant and unimportant will continue to be dumped in the ash can or carted off by the junk man.

These, briefly, are a few of the present problems in the field of state archival administration: winning recognition as the official archival agency, establishing better public relations, financing our program, dealing with federal relief projects, and formulating a workable plan for the destruction of useless records.

C. C. Crittenden.

THE FARMERS' MUSEUM

By Clifford Lord[1]

FROM a prominent position on the National Archives Building in Washington, the motto, "What Is Past Is Prologue," challenges the thoughtful passerby with a provocative statement of the fundamental reason not only for the preservation in that particular edifice of the historic documents which reflect much of the creative, administrative and political experience of the nation, but also for the safeguarding everywhere of all objects of historical importance. It is a motto equally appropriate for a national hall of records and for a historical museum. A nation without records has well been compared to a man without a memory. A people without a consciousness of its history is in a like unhappy state of national amnesia. A knowledge of what has gone before lights up visions of the future. Hence the necessity of preserving the living records — a word here used in the sense of its broadest definition — of our past. To study the history of our nation or our state is the better to appreciate the greatness of our heritage, the more fully to equip ourselves for the tasks which confront each successive generation. Yet that history is not apparent in its most truly significant phases merely from the inspiring documents of our increasingly égalitarian democracy, the details of the ebb and flow of our economic or political progress, or the available generalizations about American culture and education. These things are devoid of their true meaning unless accompanied by an intimate study of the life of the common man, the artisan, the farmer, the men and women whose "blood, sweat and tears," whose trials and whose humility, have sculpted the nation we know today.

To speak glibly of conquering the wilderness or pushing westward the path of empire, is to forget what lies behind such words: the toil of the wooden or the iron-sheathed plow, the sweat and aching muscles of the saw pit, the back-breaking labor of the itinerant cobbler, the tedious processes of the tannery, the relatively slow production of the barn-frame loom, the ceaseless wear from men's hands

1. Mr. Lord is Director of the New York Historical Association. Reprinted from *N.Y. History*, XXIV, No. 1, Jan., 1943. *Editor.*

which has hallowed the handles of many implements with a polish whose essential quality is impossible to imitate. Hurried and thoughtless references make equally hard to grasp the painstaking care with which the craftsman produced his wares, the extraordinary skill which the tight cooper had to develop for his keelers, canteens and firkins, the interminable processes of making linen thread and then weaving it into cloth, coverlets or carpet. Lack of the pause necessary for true appreciation makes it all too easy to overlook the ingenuity which not only adapted the broken scythe to a corn sickle, or converted the farm's scrap iron into covering for the primitive plow, but which was constantly improving on existing models.

It is to recall the detail of the life of the artisan, the craftsman, and the farmer of what Jared van Wagenen has aptly called the "Golden Age of Homespun"; to re-establish contact between the present generation and their forebears, lineal or spiritual; to recreate something of the spirit of the Yorker of a century and more ago, who fought under Clinton, pushed the frontier westward, brought the land under cultivation, built the Erie Canal, established the State Agricultural Society, and secured an all but universal manhood suffrage and the free public school, that the State Historical Association is establishing a new museum, the Farmers' Museum, at Cooperstown. We know the fruits of such men. We can better appreciate the people themselves by knowing the tools with which they tilled their fields and earned their bread. Knowing them, we may the better know ourselves.

Perhaps this is sufficient to indicate what the sponsors of this project have in mind, yet because the purpose of the Farmers' Museum is somewhat different from that of most similar collections, it may be well to expand the point further.

Many people — many museums — collect "antiques," by which they variously mean the several products of our early craftsmen: furniture, potter, glass, pewter, silver, and similar objects. These items are collected primarily for their aesthetic value, and they are what we may, for our purposes, call consumer's goods. This is not the place to argue the relative importance of producer and consumer. Neither could be exactly happy without the other. Nor should the economists among us be too disgruntled over the slight perversion of terms which follows. The point is that most historical museum collections are devoted to these "consumer's goods," to the *products* of the artisan. The Farmers' Museum, on the other hand, is devoted to "producer's goods," to the *implements* of the worker. The sponsors of this new Museum

are convinced that a better picture of American life, and that of the New York farm and shop, can be had from the production tools and implements of the common man than from the most elaborate furniture, the best art, the finest luxury goods with which the wealthy landowner or merchant of an earlier day was privileged to adorn his home. They believe that such a picture is useful in a democracy in order to produce a truer appreciation and a healthier respect for the dignity and accomplishments of those who practised agriculture or a trade; a happy result which a real exposure to the relics of such craft almost inevitably brings. This is in no way meant to disparage the collections of products. It is to say that the Farmers' Museum, in taking the producer for its central theme, is working in a field which has been largely neglected and whose potentialities have seemingly been grossly underestimated.

It is not only the deeper appreciation of the fundamentals of our history and of the dignity of past labor, nor of the hard work of the pioneer or the skill of the craftsman that lend importance to the tools of the early plowman or turner. There are other valid reasons for the establishment of such a collection.

Many authorities on antiques get their greatest pleasure from an appreciation not alone of the beauty of the object, but from the grasp of functionalism which it illustrates. Such people enjoy seeing in the product of the craftsman an object primarily utilitarian, and incidentally decorative. Yet no product of the craftsman is apt to be more functional than the tools by which it was made; no object is likely to be more strictly utilitarian than the implements which gave it birth. He who has once seen the perfection of form of a fine butter mold, the delicately shaped handle some blacksmith gave his carefully forged ladle, the heavy strength yet graceful lines of the anvil, or the whittled base of a wooden apple parer, at once appreciates the fact that the craftsman often enjoyed the same decorative utilitarianism in his tools, primary and secondary, that he demanded in his product. Again the Farmers' Museum is more concerned with the tools and implements behind the product than with the product itself because it feels that the study of these happy combinations of usefulness and loveliness at once sharpens the mind and stimulates the imagination.

Still other collectors of these antiques are concerned — to their intellectual enrichment — with the social and economic history manifest in the adaptation of European implements or tools to the conditions of a new world and to a frontier society. The evolution of the

English axe into the trade axe, the tomahawk, the broadaxe, the hewing axe, and other variations in the land of the Indian and plentiful wood; the changes in the augur; the evolution of the loom, are all full not only of historical interest — they not only help one get a new grasp on the basic facts of their country's or their region's history — but they are of singular provocativeness to the imaginative inventiveness of anyone with the least mechanical aptitude. Again the painstaking care of the true craftsman, his insistence on doing things right, is an attitude that Americans — and among them Yorkers — can ill afford to lose, any more than they can sensibly overlook the, to some unpleasant, fact of hard work, on which the early artisan and the early farmer alike laid the foundations of relative prosperity and increased standards of living for the days and generations which lay ahead.

There is genuine inspiration lurking in these relics of the living past; inspiration from the closer contact they afford with the very meat of our history; inspiration from the advances, the adaptations, the evolutions and the revolutions in devices, and from the gadgets and the space and labor-saving devices which have from very early days been characteristic of the American genius. On both scores such inspiration, sorely needed in any land in every generation, makes such a collection potentially a valuable contribution to the educational and patriotic facilities of our state or nation. It is the job of this museum to make that inspiration pointed and accessible.

Just one hundred and twenty-five years ago, Elkanah Watson, one of America's really significant leaders, journeyed from his home in Albany to Cooperstown to inaugurate, not far from the site of the Farmers' Museum, the first county fair ever to be held in this state. To those concerned with the development of the fair and of New York agriculture, the name of Watson is well known, though the years have temporarily dimmed his fame for the general public. Watson's prodigious energies and his visionary interest in all things that gave promise of the more abundant life were constantly enlisted in the service of his fellow Americans. Pioneer of the modern county fair and founder of the Berkshire Agricultural Society, missionary for what became the Department of Agriculture, the State Board of Agriculture, free seed distribution, and the agricultural experiment station, he well merits Dr. Hedrick's epitaph: "a visionary seer in business, adventurer, the first American if we except Benjamin Franklin, whose friend and disciple he was, to promote an organized attack

on the national resources of the country." It was in commemoration of the opening of the first New York county fair by Watson at Cooperstown, October 14, 1817, that the Farmers' Museum was originally projected, for from Cooperstown, the fair spread with lightning-like rapidity throughout the state, as from Pittsfield it spread throughout the nation, until recently such fairs in the United States and Canada numbered more than two thousand a year, attracted annual crowds of over forty million people, and awarded premiums totalling over eight million dollars. The opportunity to commemorate the launching of a movement so full of meaning for the advancement of agriculture all over the nation, added weight to the reasons for starting the Farmers' Museum at this particular time.

Though war has postponed the plans for an appropriate celebration of this anniversary,[2] Watson's memory, together with that of other great pioneers and leaders of New York State agriculture, will be perpetuated at the Farmers' Museum, where their vision may serve to inspire others in the cause which interested them — a higher standard of living for the Yorker who toiled in the field or worked at his trade in his home or shop.

Begun last November, the present collection already numbers over five thousand pieces. Field work has yielded well over half this total. The Otsego hills have proved unforeseeably rich in this sort of material, and a number of rather remarkable specimens have been uncovered. The generosity of New York's farmers of today, the donors of the bulk of the collection, has been matched only by their interest and sympathy with the purposes of the project. Other gifts have come in from thoughtful members all over the state from Buffalo to Long Island. The work of an excellent advisory committee has been most helpful.

The museum has recently been enhanced by the acquisition of the collections of the late William B. Sprague, of Elsie W. Edsall, and the Wyckoff family. The first was the property of the founder and long-time president of the Early American Industries Association. It has been extensively pictured in illustrations for the *Chronicle*, published by that association, *Antiques* magazine, and Scott Williamson's

2. The Farmers' Museum Collection was formally dedicated July 4. Dedication ceremonies were broadcast over Station WGY. For a description of the ceremonies and the text of the talks by Jared van Wagenen, Jr., and President Dixon Ryan Fox, see *New York History*, Oct., 1942.

recent *American Craftsman.* It brings rich treasures of the eighteenth and early nineteenth century periods to the Farmers' Museum, contributing many rare agricultural pieces and unusual items in practically every field of handicraft. It also brings to Cooperstown practically complete sets of broom and horse-collar making, basket weaving, hat and glove making, gold beating and wheel making implements, heretofore but scantily represented in the collection.

Elsie W. Edsall has long been known to friends of the handicraft exhibitions in the Agricultural Museum at the State Fair at Syracuse for her demonstrations of spinning and weaving of flax, wool, and cotton. Her own handiwork is among the best available in the East. Her unique collection of over two hundred and fifty shuttles and bobbins, and many rare and, in some cases, unique pieces, has made the spinning and weaving exhibit without exaggeration one of the best which can anywhere be seen.

The Wyckoff Farm on Flushing Avenue, Brooklyn, is one of the few remaining old farm houses in that borough. The first section of the house was built around 1700, and the property has been in the continuous possession of the Wyckoff family since 1760. The fine collection of antique tools which had gathered in its barn and toolhouse for successive generations is now given to the Farmers' Museum through the generosity of the present owners.

Housed at present in the auditorium and adjoining rooms of the Association's building at Cooperstown, the relics will shortly be placed in their own museum. It is your author's happy task to announce to the Association the establishment of the permanent museum for this collection, a huge stone barn and adjoining buildings, together with about twenty-five acres of land. Located on Route 80 just at the village limits of Cooperstown, the new museum will be readily accessible to the out-of-town visitor. Fronting farm lands on two sides, and overlooking a golf course on the others, it is ideally located in a rustic setting. The hills behind it form a pleasant background at all seasons, and the golf course in front of it affords a commanding view of Otsego Lake beyond an almost parklike greensward.

This rich gift has been made to the Farmers' Museum by Stephen C. Clark of Cooperstown, in memory of his brother, Edward Severin Clark. It is a peculiarly fitting memorial to the late Mr. Clark whose life was devoted to scientific agriculture and the support of projects for the enrichment of the community, and who, incidentally, was the long-time president and ardent supporter of the Otsego County Agri-

cultural Society, which continued to hold the fairs launched by the Society in 1817.

The main building is two hundred and twenty-five feet long, and has two floor levels. These floors will house the major exhibits. The west wing, extending back toward the hill behind the building, is one hundred and twenty-five feet long, eighty feet wide, and forty feet high. It is planned to transform this wing into an auditorium capable of seating about two thousand people, which will be suitable for large agricultural meetings, rural festivals, and square dances. The building is of stone construction, with a concrete lower floor, giving its exhibits substantial protection against fire. With minor interior alterations, the first floor will be transformed into a series of shops, one for the carpenter, the wood-worker and the turner, one for the cobbler, one for the cooper, one for spinning and weaving, one for the tanner and harness and horse-collar maker, one for the smithy, one for the wheelwright and wagon maker, one for the basket maker, one for the glass-blower, one for the potter, one for the cider maker, one for the wine maker, one for lumbering and the sap-syrup industry, and so on.

There will be room for the smaller agricultural implements, for hunting, fishing and outdoor sports equipment, and for exhibits of material on the early county fair. Provision has been made for a huge old fashioned kitchen, with brick oven and all the kitchen equipment of older days. The rustic second floor with its arched roof and open beams will house wagons, sleighs, threshers, and the larger types of early agricultural machinery.

To the south of the main building, and connected with it by a covered stone passageway, is a smaller stone fireproof structure, which will house the library on old crafts and farming practices which the Association has been gathering for the Farmers' Museum. Files of the *Cultivator*, the *Agriculturalist*, the *Horticulturalist*, the *Rural New Yorker*, the *New York Mechanic*, the *Transactions* of the State Agricultural Society, the *Proceedings* of the Mechanics Institute, the *Chronicle* of the Early American Industries Association, *Antiques* magazine; early books on horticulture, fertilizers, machines and farm techniques; early treatises on dyeing, fulling, glass-blowing, the potter's art and other crafts, will be preserved here for reference purposes in connection with the collection. Generous gifts from friends and members of the Association have already made many of these available. The library will be designed alike to service the serious student and researcher, and to delight the casual visitor and browser.

Other farm buildings on the grounds will be available for storage, workshops, and, in some cases, additional displays. Behind the buildings, and included in the lands given to the Museum, is a natural amphitheater in the hills, which the Association hopes to develop for outdoor pageants, community use, and perhaps agricultural fairs. Adjacent fields ensure adequate parking facilities.

Plans are also envisaged for the addition of other old-time buildings to the plant of the Farmers' Museum. An old stone store will be moved to this location and equipped with the wares of a hundred years ago. It is also hoped to bring to the project an old schoolhouse, a log cabin, a grist mill with water wheel run from the abundant water supplies in the nearby hills, and other buildings typical of the community of the homespun age. All will be furnished with period antiques and restored as nearly as possible to their natural condition and uses. This part of the development will wait for fulfilment until after the war, but the Farmers' Museum, if present conditions allow, will be opened to the public this summer.

From this it may be judged that the Farmers' Museum is not just another "antiquarian" venture. Rather it is dedicated to the richer education of young America. To make it a provocative experience, each exhibit on each craft and each section of farm economy will be arranged with one major point in mind: it must tell its own story clearly and interestingly. Each exhibit must show a complete process; it must represent all stages of its particular craft. By labels and by their position in the exhibit, the use of each item must be clear. Even more important, the fine points of each object, the things which distinguish it from its peers, the specific improvement which separates it from its immediate predecessor, must be made evident to the most uninitiated layman. Each section must be fully self-explanatory to the novice, for imaginations must not be left to run riot as to actual processes; they instead must be guided to appreciate what they see before them and stimulated to creative reaction. Only in this way will the Farmers' Museum fulfill the purpose its designers have set for it — the purpose Elkanah Watson would have wished for it — to serve as exhilarating prologue for the future.

A DOCUMENT ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE "SWISS" POLICY OF VERMONT

Edited by

CHILTON WILLIAMSON

THE American Revolution precipitated Vermont's independence; the Critical Period — to use John Fiske's famous phrase — assured Vermont's separate existence. Throughout the era of revolution and reconstruction, Congress's necessity was deemed Vermont's opportunity. Promoters, absentee and resident, prominent and humble, at home and abroad, launched a fertility of projects to promote the expansion, the prosperity and power of America's Switzerland. None is more revealing nor more complex than the Peters-Allen-Simcoe-Henry Clinton project to erect Vermont as a barrier state between Canada and the American states.[1]

Vermont's leaders were primarily occupied with the necessity of reconciling geography and policy vis à vis Canada, although Vermont was swept by the general trend towards paper money, debt repudiation, and hostility towards established authority which forced John Jay to exclaim that he was uneasy and apprehensive, more so than during the war.[2] From the beginning of settlement until the opening of the Champlain canal, the Champlain valley was a satellite of the St. Lawrence, connected, as it is, with the St. Lawrence by the northward-flowing Richelieu. The political and economic implications of this caprice of geography were not lost on the inhabitants of the valley portion of Vermont, nor upon their supporters in Canada and Loyalist allies in London.[3]

1. An unknown writer wrote to Lord Dorchester, in charge at Quebec, that the group that desires a monarchy in the states "do not wish Vermont to confederate at present, although no strangers to the part she has acted." He added that this group desired the British to be strong in Canada. New York Public Library, Bancroft Transcripts, *Quebec–United States*, vol. I, pp. 197–207.

2. J. B. McMaster, *History of the People of the United States*, New York, 1885–1913, 8 vols.; vol. I, pp. 347–350.

3. C. Williamson, "New York's Struggle for Champlain Valley Trade," *New York History*, vol. XXII, September, 1941, pp. 426–436. This theme is being expanded into a volume now in preparation.

Levi and Ira Allen, the latter playing a curiously diffident role, John Graves Simcoe (soon to be Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada), Sir Henry Clinton (of Revolutionary fame), and Samuel Peters form the main cogs in what smacks of a conspiracy of a geography-minded, "enlightened" age. Nominally an Episcopalian divine, Peters actually devoted much of his life to a wide variety of unsuccessful speculations in land. His eccentricities appear to have won for him a host of enemies in Connecticut. With the outbreak of the Revolution, Peters drifted into the Loyalist camp.[4] A desire for cash and sympathy, in which he was joined by many Loyalists, led him to London where he appears to have fallen in with Levi Allen during the latter's great and sincere efforts to win support for the Swiss policy. To the bitter end Peters never swerved from his adherence to it. His classic statement written under the "nom de plume" of Evan Paul remains a cherished possession of the Society.[5]

Less well known is George Chalmers. Chalmers was a prominent Maryland lawyer before the Revolution. He, like Peters, became a Loyalist and a writer of some note. After 1784 he was Chief Clerk of the Office for Trade, popularly known as the "Board of Trade." Chalmers does not appear to have played any positive role in the intrigue. We do know that hostility to all things Yankee was a considerable influence in his life.[6]

One may venture, in closing, that this group which appealed to Chalmers through Peters gave too little attention to the ability of Vermont to realize their grandiose conceptions. The adoption of the Federal Constitution rudely upset the balance of power in North America and prepared the way for the entrance of a reluctant Vermont into the Union.[7]

4. Lorenzo Sabine, *Biographical Sketches of Loyalists of the American Revolution*, Boston, 1864, 2 vols., vol. I, 177–181. Peters claimed he lost 56,000 acres in Vermont. For these losses he was eventually granted £1500. See N.Y.P.L. *Loyalist Transcripts*, vol. II, 266–267; vol. XI, 250–251.

5. *Proceedings of the Vermont Historical Society*, new series, vol. 2, 1930, pp. 15–17.

6. Grace A. Cockroft, *The Public Life and Services of George Chalmers*, New York, 1939, pp. 44–123.

7. Dorchester wrote on Oct. 25, 1789, that an informant of his (neither Levi nor Ira) "speaks of the strength of Vermont with less confidence and of the power of the States with greater apprehension." Bancroft Transcripts, *Quebec–United States*, vol. II, p. 483.

Sir Grosvenor Place March 12th 1789 —

Your Situation caused me to transmit the inclosed Map imperfectly drawn and to make the following observations.[1] — Should the Plan suggested tend to the advancement of the British Navy, Commerce Manufactories, & Peace, I think Religion nor Policy would oppose it.

By the feudal Line is meant to show the Jurisdiction of French Canada under Protection of the Articles of Surrender in 1760,[2] Where the protestant Religion can never flourish whilst those Articles remain in full Force.

South of the feudal Line is crown Lands to the Line at 45°, which divides Canada from Verdmont running 100 Miles East from Champlain to the River Connecticut.

South of the division Line lies Verdmont extending from 45° to 43° — & from the River Connecticut on the East to the Mississippi on the West, including part of Champlain & half of the waters in all the great Lakes. The verdmonteers are Settled chiefly between Champlain & the Connecticut, their Numbers above 250000 Souls in October 1788. Mr. Chittenden is their Governor & a good Man; Ethan Allen is their General — & their Standing Army is 15000.

New Canada extends west of the River Sorel & of the River Muckennonggo[3] and principally is Settled by the Loyalists.

At [?] Fort St John on the North West Corner of Lake Champlain, from which to the waters of St Lawrence is almost a flat 16 Miles where a Canal may be made for £10000 — the interest of which is £500, pr. Ann — and carting of salt &c &c &c from Lake Chamblee to Fort St John 12 Miles in the year

1. The original of this document is in the Chalmers Collection of the New York Public Library, and is printed with the permission of Robert W. Hill, Keeper of Manuscripts.

2. Article 27 conceded the free exercise of the Catholic faith. See A. L. Burt, *The Old Province of Quebec*, Minneapolis, 1933, pp. 59–60.

3. Obviously the St. Lawrence.

1788 cost £2000. This Expence fell on the People in Verdmont. They would rejoice to pay half of that Sum instead of the whole, which must always be paid till said Canal shall be formed, and then the Proprietor of that Canal would gain nett £500 — per Annum — supposing no increase of Business. By Said Canal salt can be sold at South bay for four shillings & six pence per Bushel, which now sells for 12/0. The British by said Canal will forever command the Commerce of verdmont & keep that extensive Country as a Barrier between Canada & the thirteen States — because the Verdmonteers will be guided by their Ease & interest. This last *Cord* will bind in this enlightened Age more than Conscience & Loyalty to the King or to Congress.°

The verdmonteers must forsake that Country when they cannot Communicate with Canada; because of their great Distance from the Sea on the South. During the war salt sold in verdmont for two guineas per Bushel, when brought over Land from the South — and before the war 20/0 per hundred weight from Hartford to Dartmouth College was the common Freight, & can never be Cheaper — by Reason of the Falls & Distance. Verdmont is an independent Republic & has refused all Connections with Congress, for which Reason, the Loyalists left in the States by the Peace of 1783 are moving into it in a very rapid Manner. The People of verdmont intend to act the Part of the Swiss Cantons,[4] & defend themselves against Congress, & rule over the Indians, and have a commercial Intercourse with Great Britain & Canada

Each Person in verdmont will annually consume £10 worth of British Commodities, & pay for it in Ashes, Grain, Provisions, Horses, flax & flax seed Iron Pigs — Masts — Stoves, & oak Timber the best in America, which will lower the Price of those things from Norway, for which British

4. Peters' phrase; but by no means used solely by him.

money is paid. By this Commerce the
British will command the Peltry & fur Trade
without paying £20000 per ann to the Indians
for their good will, which is more than that
Trade is Worth.

The tract of Land Petitioned for in 1788 by Col. Fitch[5]
Dr Moseley[6] & Mr Ogden[7] in Behalf of Ten thousand
loyal Families will be equally benefited by said
Canal as the Verdmonteers. Said Land ought in
Policy to be granted, otherwise those 10000 Families
will settle in verdmont, & soon be able to force
Canada into all their Measures — for, they will sooner
make War on Canada than Quit their Settlements,
or be shut out from the Waters of St Lawrence —
but if they are Gratified in this important Point,
their Interest will make them friendly to Canada
in Spite of Conscience, or, Envy, or, Ingratitude.
If England can sett £5 worth of wrought Goods to
each Person, & have the pay in raw Materials,
as they undoubtedly will — every soul in verdmont will
be worth to England as much as a Negro in the
west indies — is worth.

By Reason of said Canal a large town will soon be
erected near Fort St John,[8] out of the Jurisdiction of
the Bishop of Canada, where Commerce, Learning
& the protestant Religion may civilize the verdmonteers
the Loyalists, & french Canadians.

For this Purpose a Bishop according to the Church of

5. Colonel Eleazer Fitch of Connecticut unsuccessfully petitioned on Jan. 25, 1788, for 40 townships, north of 45 degrees, along Missisquoi Bay back to Lake Memphremagog. Public Archives of Canada, *Canada Public "E" Series*, Land A, part I, pp. 28, 112.

6. Dr. Isaac Moseley had a checkered career. He was a Loyalist from Glastonbury, Connecticut, saved his property from confiscation, and reaped a harvest smuggling goods from Connecticut to British-held New York. After the Revolution he transferred his field of operations to Arlington, Vermont. N.Y.P.L. *Loyalist Transcripts*, vol. XII, pp. 667–681.

7. Isaac Ogden hailed from Newark, New Jersey. Though professing to be a bona fide Loyalist, his opportunism was the cause of much unfavorable comment in Loyalist circles in the colonies, and later in Canada. *Loyalist Transcripts*, vol. XXXIX, pp. 411–459.

8. It is recalled that Levi Allen settled at St. Johns.

England ought to be appointed to reside at Fort St John — who might from that Center visit and govern the Whole.

This Plan will not fail to promote shipping & seamen for Britons.

By the Peace of 1783 a Line of Division between Canada & Verdmont left all Oak, Beach, Ash Maple & white pine Trees & Masts to verdmont, & Pitch pines, Hemlocks & Evergreens to Canada. Hence all Stores yet sent from Montreal and Quebec came out of Verdmont — because no Oaks grow on the British side till you reach Detroit[9] — which can never be sent to Montreal till the Falls of Niagara are removed, or a Canal Cut from the west side of Lake Erie to the waters of Deep River[10] which the Duke of Bridgewater[11] would effect in one year, as the Distance is under ten Miles.

Most of the Loyalists will, or have, moved out of the States to avoid Congress, Taxes & Anarchy.[12] Three Hundred Families moved last Winter out of Connecticut into Verdmont — They find that Land Carriage of a *Ton* from Lake Chamblee to Fort St John costs more than the same weight from London to Montreal by Water.

It might be high Policy in Government to advance money to cut a Canal from Champlain to the Lawrence and receive from the Proprietor the Interest, till the Principle is returned — and by maintaining a strong Garrison at Fort St John, & another on the Isle noix in Lake Champlain, the British will Hold the Key to all Verdmont, & by their Ships on the Lake forever prevent all Invasions of Congress, or, the verdmonteers as they can never

9. In reality no such sharp cleavage existed. See A. R. M. Lower, *The North American Assault on the Canadian Forest*, New Haven, 1938, Map No. 2.

10. Possibly the Welland?

11. The Duke of Bridgewater completed in 1761 a canal from his coal fields to Manchester. Its success made a deep impression on promoters everywhere.

12. Such was the purport of information in New York. See *Rivington's Gazette*, Feb. 28, 1781.

Invade Canada effectually any other way.

The Loyalists settled at Cateraqui, and on the Lakes;[13] and most of the verdmonteers are & were Episcopals[14] of the Church of England, and at present have no form of worship. It is to be expected they will soon become Infidels, or, fanaticks; if something is not effectually done for them —

They are waiting to see what will be done for them by the English Bishops & Government, having rejected all Connections with Jacobite Bishops or those under Congress — and Presbyterian Bishops, upon whom they cast all the Blame of the American Rebellion & the Ruin of themselves & Country.[15]

Should those People be now neglected, Popery & superstition may be adopted; & that will unite Canada with verdmont, & bring about another Revolution, if not Rebellion

At present they are easily to be Governed & made orderly — having seen the Effects of Schism and religious Madness prevailing in the States. Whoever goes among them must be well acquainted with human Nature & be able to bear all things with Temper & Policy. If these observations can afford you any Information, I am paid; you may depend on them as coming from People in that Part of the World of good Repute. The People in Canada view themselves of more Consequence & Benefit to Great Britain than Nova Scotia is, & yet Nova Scotia has a *BP* & Protestant Canada none —

I. am Sir — &c Samuel Peters

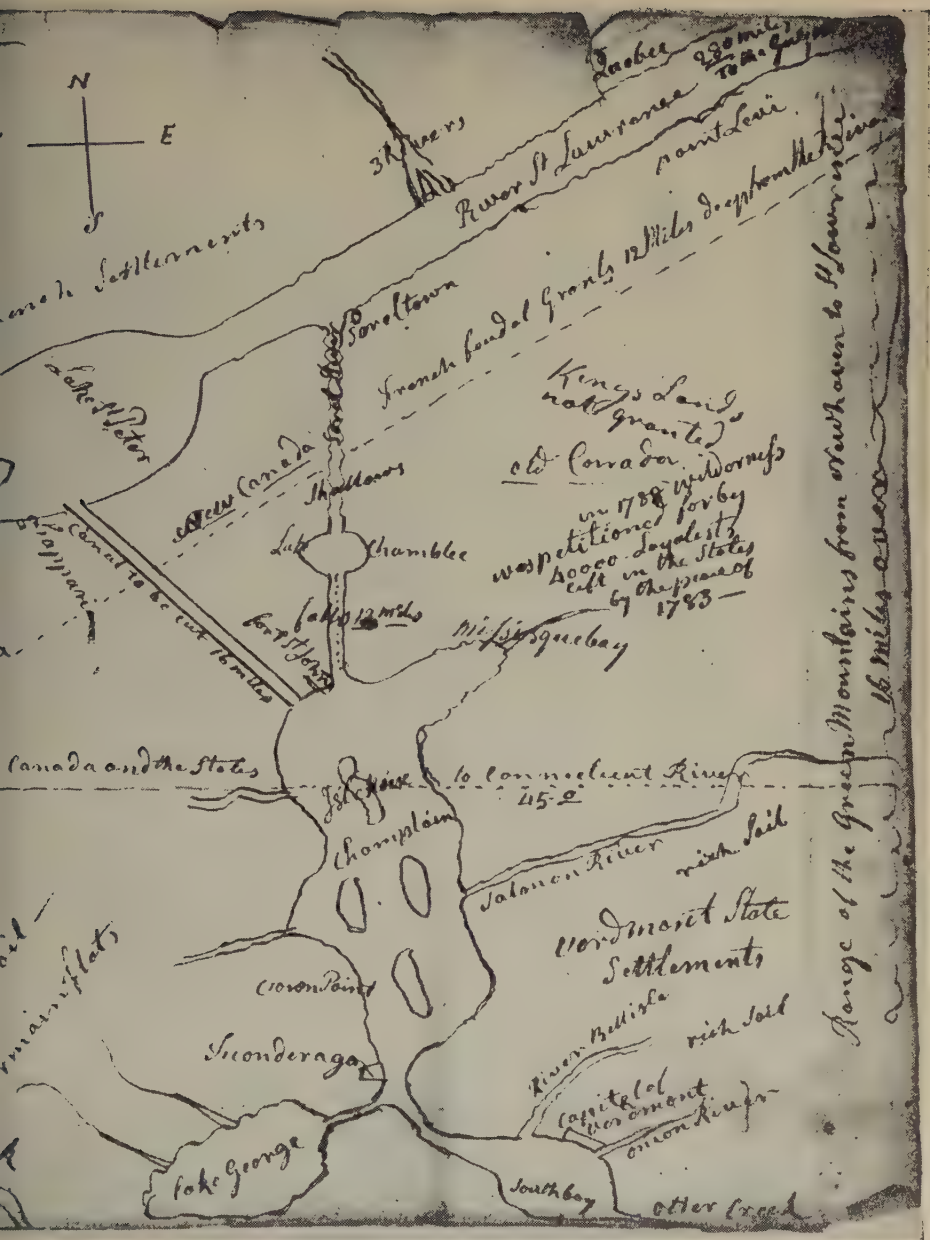
George Chalmers Esqr

13. M. L. Hansen, J. B. Brebner, *The Mingling of the Canadian and American Peoples*, New Haven, 1940, pp. 43–65.

14. Diversity of religious sects was the outstanding characteristic of early Vermont. See D. M. Ludlum, *Social Ferment in Vermont*, New York, 1939, pp. 1–62.

15. For an elaboration of this interpretation, see Alice M. Baldwin, *The New England Clergy and the American Revolution*, Durham, 1928.

MAP OF THE CHAMPLAIN AND UPPE



LAWRENCE VALLEYS, *by Samuel Peters*

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING

President's Welcome

By Leon S. Gay

TODAY marks the 105th annual meeting of the Vermont Historical Society. Through all these years, a small group of patriotic citizens who appreciate the life and work of the Vermont pioneers have carried on the pleasant duty of making available to the present and future citizens of Vermont, the writings, ways of life, habits of thought, and great decisions made by these forebears of ours. They created our State, and they, through their works, influence our thoughts and actions whether we realize it or not.

As a business man who is somewhat familiar with many phases of Vermont life, it is my firm conviction that the Vermont Historical Society is a "going" concern and worthy of wide-spread public support. We have the facilities and material to interpret our historic heritage. In this period of war which will be followed by our victory, will come plans for the peace; we have a unique opportunity to help mould public opinion in the way of a lasting peace — one which will avoid the pitfalls of disastrous peace treaties of former years.

Our Society has made progress in the last few years and especially so during 1942. In line with the revitalizing program which I announced three years ago, we are continuing to make changes which will enable us to give more and better service to the people of Vermont.

Mr. Earle Williams Newton, our Director, has completed a year of service, and in that time, has proved that he is a man of talent and vision. He is the right man in this responsible position. Under his supervision, our library and museum have been rearranged to segregate the library as much as possible and to display our exhibits in a logical manner. Now the student and historian will have a measure of privacy, while the general public will find the group exhibits more interesting.

Unfortunately, we were unable to meet this year with the New York Historical Association in the Champlain Valley Historical Conference because of travel restrictions. However, in order to keep in touch with the best thought outside the State, we have joined several national associations, namely: The Conference of Historical Societies,

of which Mr. Newton is Vice-President; Early American Industries Association; and the American Association of Museums, of which Mr. Newton is Chairman of the Library Committee. We know that these contacts will be of great value to us as a Society and to Mr. Newton in his professional work.

We have added two new committees to our list this year which we believe will be of benefit to the Society and to the State. The Committee on Education, Membership, and Public Relations will be under the leadership of Professor Arthur W. Peach. He will have to assist him, Lieutenant-Governor Mortimer R. Proctor, Commissioner of Education Ralph E. Noble, and Professor Leon W. Dean, Historian and Public Relations Expert. Such a committee of distinguished men will be of great help in expanding our activities during 1943 in the field of Vermont past, present, and future cultural relations.

The second new committee is that of Historic Buildings consisting of Senator Walter Hard, Chairman, John Clement, Father Maloney, and Leon S. Gay. This committee will fill a real need in our State and a good beginning has already been made as is shown by the Director's report.

In addition to these two new committees, we are changing the set-up so that each committee will have its own budget for which it is responsible. While each committee will be an individual unit, activities will be coordinated through the general supervision of the Director in order to avoid duplication of effort, and to give better continuity to the work of the Society as a whole.

While our finances are in excellent condition, we need to double our membership in order to give Vermonters the service to which they are entitled. Membership is open to anyone who is interested in Vermont and her traditions.

For many years Professor Arthur W. Peach has been Editor of our *Proceedings* and under his direction the magazine has been outstanding in the historical field. Because of the great pressure of other duties, he has found it necessary to resign as Editor. I wish to pay tribute to the brilliant work which he has done as Editor through these years at great personal sacrifice of time and money. Mr. Newton will be the new Editor and will continue the work so ably done by his predecessor.

There have been numerous requests for your President and Director to speak before other organizations and over the radio. One of the most significant of these occasions was "Greeley Day,"

carried out in a splendid way by the Poultney Historical Society in the fine old church at East Poultney. In this village Horace Greeley learned his printer's trade and here he developed that talent for philosophy and pungent writing which enabled him to become one of the leading editors in this country. No other town can produce a Horace Greeley, but many of our Vermont communities were the birth place or training ground for men and women who came to fame and fortune in later years in places far removed from Vermont. These people have always given loving credit to their home town for its part in equipping them for the successful careers which they achieved. I commend to our Vermont towns "Old Home Days" and other celebrations built around famous people who were born or lived there. Such commemorations are invaluable in bringing about community spirit and pride in our State. Our Society will be happy to be of assistance to any community wishing to arrange such a meeting.

Work on the Peacham Town History, made possible through the Jennie C. Watts bequest, is progressing. The committee in charge has selected Dr. Ernest L. Bogart, author of some thirty books, as editor of the History. Dr. Bogart brings to the work a wealth of professional experience as well as love for the town of Peacham, since he has made his summer home there for many years.

I wish to express my satisfaction over the fine cooperation existing between the State authorities and our Society. Part of our funds and our rooms are furnished by the State. We welcome requests for service by the State officials and from our legislators and such services will always be cheerfully given.

Due to war-time travel conditions and to the closing of the Federal Works Project, fewer people have used our facilities than in former years. However, this has given our staff more time to reclassify and catalogue our material which will make it of more value to the public in future years.

I appreciate the invaluable help given by the staff, the Board of Curators and the various committees during the past year in making the one hundred and fifth year of the Vermont Historical Society one of its best.

THE FIRST WAR YEAR

By Earle Williams Newton

Director, Vermont Historical Society

The conservation of cultural resources does not in any sense constitute "business as usual." And no historical society within the ken of the editor has yet come out in favor of war-time contraction of its work. This is a refreshing note, for it indicates that these groups are coming to realize that their primary function is one of public education, a service which must be extended and revitalized rather than curtailed in time of crisis. It is meet, too, that the history of the Society's first war year should serve not only as a retrospect of the past but also as a prospect for the future. Editor.

EVEN had it wished, the Vermont Historical Society could not have, this last year, isolated itself from the world shaking struggle now in progress. Indeed, the impact of the war has been marked, not only in its effect upon use of the Society's facilities, but in its pressure toward a reassessment of the part played by historical societies in a nation's culture, particularly in crisis years. For decades in the past historical societies have acted as hewers of wood and drawers of water to historians, a task which has been relatively thankless though no less willingly performed. In crisis times, however, the urgent necessity of clearly showing its vital connection to the values and heritage for which the people fight has been presented to every institution. Out of this need of reassessment has appeared more clearly the double imperative which presents itself to historical societies. Not only must they collect historical materials, but, as the only national educational institutions reaching the adult public in the field of history, must show the critical importance of this field as an essential "way of approach to the problem of man in his relations to society." We are not merely archives alone but educational institutions also. We must therefore fulfil our trust to American culture.

Public Education.

There are many ways in which the Society during the coming year hopes to expand its activities in this field. The new Committee on Education, Membership and Public Relations, drawing into action

distinguished men from the fields of education, government, and public relations, may be expected to accomplish much in 1943 toward this aim. In addition to new lines of approach, expansion of many of last year's activities will be undertaken. It is hoped that additional lectures and radio talks can be arranged. Already as many are scheduled as were given in all of last year. The *Proceedings* will continue to carry scholarship and interest to the members of the Society, supplemented by a more frequent *Bulletin* whose circulation may be expected to reach beyond the immediate membership and whose low cost of production will facilitate a wide free distribution. One of our most felicitous contacts with public education in Vermont has for many years been the Edmunds Contest, under the competent direction of Professor Peach. It will of course play a continued significant role in the program of the Committee. It may be possible to sponsor other contests in the field of higher education.

The modern historical museum, we are coming to learn, can be a potent factor for the expansion of historical knowledge and dissemination of historical information, particularly to the general public. Research students in social history are discovering that not all the materials of history are to be found on paper. Furthermore, teachers are coming to realize the usefulness and importance of the visual factor in education. Surely the important evidential material in museums will be more extensively used for public education by both historical societies and scholars in the future.

Today for the first time, as a result of a rearrangement of the library, the Society has a museum rather than a scattered assortment of display cases. It is divided into five sections: one of arts and crafts to tell the life story of the common man in Vermont, a military group to house mementos of Vermont's participation in the nation's wars, a geological and archaeological section, cases and bulletin area for the display of printed, manuscript, and broadside material as well as maps and prints, and lastly, a group of cases for current and special displays. Increasingly the value of bringing museum and library material into juxtaposition is being recognized. Hence we hope to provide more extended facilities for the concurrent display of these items. We were able to obtain, for a fraction of their replacement cost, four used aluminum cases which should assist our efforts along this line. The ordering and rearrangement of cases and their contents are going on gradually under constant consultation with Mr. Clement, Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Library and Exhibits.

In addition to mere rearrangement and grouping of existing facilities, it is hoped that we shall be able to expand educational work in this field by construction of certain adjuncts of modern museum technique, such as illustrative models and dioramas. Our end and aim in this regard is to tell the story of Vermont history, visually, as best we can with the material at hand. But we need more material. One of the largest unfinished tasks ahead of us is the accumulation of adequate museum items which will illustrate the crafts and living of the early Vermonters. Then they must be properly arranged to tell this story, and supplemented by such creative educational techniques as have been developed in the advanced museums of the country.

Not all museum work is done in the museum headquarters. Indeed, some of the most effective work along these lines is being done in the development of the field museum, usually a historic house. These have frequently been preserved for sentimental or aesthetic reasons. It is becoming evident, however, that they constitute also important materials of history and may serve as extremely useful educational adjuncts. I had the opportunity to observe this restorative technique on a grand scale at the 1942 meeting of the American Association of Museums at Williamsburg, Va. Here the development of the historic house as an educational museum of history has been carried out en masse and most effectively, as witness the extent of the public pilgrimage to this old colonial city, now so carefully restored through the generosity of the Rockefellers. It is with these things in mind that the Historic Houses Committee of the Society has drawn up its report for this year. It has noted the difficulty, for historical societies modestly endowed, in embarking upon an extensive program of preservationism. For that reason it has advocated the establishment of a continuous fund for the purchase of options on houses deserving of conservation, and for the placing of these houses in competent private hands for restoration and preservation. It recommends that for the present at least the Society confine its ownership to gifts made all in a single vicinity, in order that there may gradually be erected or restored a settlement which will illustrate not only early Vermont architecture, but also provide the setting for a complete re-creation of early Vermont village life. No more productive educational technique could be adopted for furthering interest in Vermont history. Such a settlement could, on a much smaller scale of course, become, like Williamsburg, a stimulus to historical pilgrimages, thereby extending further the radius of historical knowledge.

An experiment with the technique of handling options, as suggested by the Committee, was undertaken by the Director *ex officio*, with respect to an extraordinarily well preserved old house in Calais that once belonged in the Ainsworth family. Built between 1796 and 1807, it has remained almost absolutely unchanged over the years since, even to its man-sized smoking oven, built into the huge central chimney and opening through a panel into the front hall. All fireplaces and paneling were intact and no constructional changes or additions had been made.

Through the agency of Mr. Hard, chairman of the Historic Houses Committee, Dr. Robert D. Curtis of Manchester was interested. After a careful examination, Dr. Curtis bought the house. Restrictions upon remodeling were written into the deed of sale, at the same time that the services of the Society were offered to assist in restoration. A small profit was made on the transaction, and a sum was transferred by the Director to the Treasurer to establish the recommended Historic Buildings Fund. It is to be hoped that this fund can be increased by private contribution on the part of those interested in the laudable project of rescuing both unique and representative examples of old Vermont houses from destruction.

To further assist private parties working toward the same end, the Library has added to its shelf of architectural material, and stands ready to do all possible to assist individuals in locating and restoring worthy projects.

In sum, it would seem that there is a special wartime imperative to expand rather than to curtail educational work in history. The growing number of volumes now flooding the book market bear eloquent witness to the urgently felt necessity of better understanding of the historical backgrounds of the present crisis, as well as of American democratic institutions. Historical societies can do much to aid in the accomplishment of this understanding.

The Library.

But before educational work can be done, we must lay the foundations for it in source and secondary materials, as well as provide proper facilities for their use. A steady stream of manuscript and printed material relating especially to Vermont, but also to New England and to historical work in general has passed into the Society's accession books. For this, the Library is especially indebted to the indefatigable efforts of its Library Chairman, Harold G. Rugg. Most significant of the

additions of source material was the file of uncompleted material compiled by the Vermont Historical Records Survey, dissolved through government order in the middle of 1942. A vast mine of material collected by the field workers has now been placed on loan in the Library. The Society owes a special debt of gratitude to Mr. Henry H. Eddy, Supervisor of the Historical Records Survey, who spent a great deal of time and effort independently, organizing the material for our files and compiling a manual for its use. The Colonial Dames has again voted to deposit its annual purchases of genealogies upon the Society's shelves. Several transfers have been made from the State Library in keeping with the previously established policy of non-duplication of collecting efforts. Most noteworthy was a copy of Jeffery's 1777 Atlas, containing several important maps relating to Vermont. Considerable progress has been made during the year toward cleaning up a large backlog of uncataloged material carried over from the past. Current accessions have been cataloged as received. It may be noted from the statistics that a greater number of volumes have been shelved this year than for many years previous.

Beginnings have also been made toward the reorganization of the Society's special collections, seven in number, which are not, for the most part, available on the regular shelves: prints, maps, broadsides, manuscripts, pamphlets, newspaper clippings, and records of the Society. Each demands a special approach quite unlike the other. The broadsides have been sorted, classified, and filed in special tagboard folders. A similar process is under way with respect to the maps. A by-product of this latter work will be a complete recataloging of the collection, which has been greatly expanded during the year, as well as a checklist of maps relating to Vermont. A uniform system for the archives of the Society will be set up as of January 1943. The print and clipping collections will receive similar attention during the coming year. An eighth special collection has been set up, following to some extent newspaper practice: this "morgue" will provide quick filing for small, time-consuming items relating to town history, and will furnish a repository for other miscellaneous "floater material."

The use of library material has been greatly facilitated by the same rearrangement of stacks which enabled us to create a museum. It was undertaken to accomplish the following things:

First, to improve research facilities. By a division of the room, we were able to isolate students from sightseers. At the same time careful rearrangement enabled the enlargement of study accommodations

and the provision of individual study tables for continuous work. We were further able to set up an independent study area for research in manuscript material, isolated from the general reading tables provided for more casual students. Manuscript material was grouped in this area for convenient access, and the rapidly expanding collection of account books was shelved on the adjacent stack. Creation of this "manuscript room" has also furnished badly needed research and work space for the staff, near to the offices.

Second, to establish a continuous system of shelving books on the basis of the Dewey system for those who use the card catalog, while at the same time keeping the most used volumes close to the study areas. This was done by starting the History section (numbered in the 900's) in the rear of the room, and running it continuously from left to right along the stack rows toward the front, reserving a complete section between the offices and the manuscript room for books cataloged in other categories than "history." In the process of moving the books, we were able to relieve a rising congestion in certain areas which would have required, in the near future, a complete reshelving in any event. The card catalog was moved next to the study tables to the end of greater convenience and to encourage its use.

Third, to improve our display facilities. As noted before, our museum display cases have now been gathered together, and divided into five logical areas. Display space for manuscript material has been provided and brought into conjunction with a bulletin board for the exhibition of maps, broadsides, etc. In the course, shelves have been provided for "new books" and for the publications of the Society.

Fourth, to improve our very inadequate storage facilities. Increased efficiency in the shelving of books has not only expanded storage areas close to work areas, but also left us with a full stack left over, which has been arranged for museum storage. The storage problem will never be fully solved, however, until more space in the building can be had.

To supplement the physical changes incident to the rearrangement, certain procedural revisions have been made. Chief of these is the system for the use of manuscripts and rare books, centering around the use of a printed "Request Slip." This must be filled out from the card catalog and presented to the Librarian to obtain desired material. Responsibility for the material remains with the user until the slip is discharged by the attendant.

A word as to the general utilization of the library: it was not ex-

pected that attendance or use of books would be up to the levels of the sesquicentennial year of 1941, with its special interest and celebrations. Also it should be noted that during that year the WPA projects contributed extensively to the attendance figures and especially to the figures relating to the use of books. But essentially the war has been the cause for the small use of the library and museum this year. Aside from the diversion of interest to pressing war problems, gas rationing very nearly eliminated our summer visitors and has placed many impediments in the way of scholarly research.

The Society adds this year a third member to its staff. Mr. Pliny F. Morse came to us from the WPA Veterans Project for part time work, then was retained in continuous employ as an attendant. His conscientiousness and general competency in a great variety of tasks have led to his permanent employment in this capacity.

Publications.

And now a final word with regard to publishing activities. The Revolutionary War Veterans Project, rescued by Mr. Hoyt from almost endless progression from detail to detail was brought to a close early this year under his competent direction, and the expense to the Society terminated. Publication of the resultant lists is scheduled for the near future.

The first volume of the *Bibliography of Vermont Poetry*, by the late Walter John Coates of North Montpelier, was issued this January. Most of the sheets for this volume had already been run off at the compilers' "Driftwind Press," but the type used had long since been destroyed. An attempt was made to complete the volume, which includes the alphabet through K, by matching types. Editorial work for the second volume must be done nearly from scratch, but efforts are now being made to bring the balance of the material into shape for publication.

One of the most successful examples of cooperation with other organizations in the publication of pertinent Vermont material was the issue of the *Survey of Norwich, Vermont*. The survey, essentially a citizens' manual for the use of residents of that town, represented a great deal of research into the economic and social life of the town. It was compiled and written by the Woman's Club of Norwich, who, with the financial assistance of the Vermont Historical Society, brought it out to sell at the nominal price of a dollar. Supervision of the publication was carried out by the Director. The Society received twenty-

five copies of the volume; members desiring a copy may obtain one from the Society at the special price of one dollar.

I wish to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the devotion and industry of my assistant, Miss Agnes K. Lawson, whose cooperation has vastly eased the transition between librarians, as well as to my predecessor, Mr. Edward A. Hoyt. A month's work with him initiated me into the problems of the Society and was immeasurably rewarding. Especially valuable to a newcomer was the sympathetic and wholehearted cooperation of all the officers of the Society with whom I have thus far had contact. It was far more than anyone could have reasonably expected.

Library Statistics for 1942

1. Attendance	5,606
2. Recorded use of books	26,091
3. Correspondence	
Letters sent out	1,276
4. Acquisitions	
Transfers from Vermont State Library	11
Colonial Dames' library	23
Gifts to library and museum	114
Loans to library and museum	6
5. Cataloging	
Titles	190
Volumes	211
Type of material cataloged:	
Manuscripts	77
Manuscript collections	22
Account and manuscript record books	43
Pamphlets	213
Maps	34
Broadsides	222
Pictures	222
Cards added to permanent catalogs	3,366
Continuations	124
Continuations analyzed	112
Newspaper clippings	718
6. Membership	
Total, January 1, 1943	478
New members (incl. 1 life member)	27
Deaths (incl. 2 life members)	14
Resignations	7
7. Publications	
Sold	
Books	16
Proceedings	62
8. Speeches, lectures, and radio talks given	7

Treasurer's Report

Mr. President and Members of the Vermont Historical Society:

It is a pleasure to submit to you this report of receipts and disbursements for the calendar year ended Dec. 31, 1942, and statements showing activities of the various funds with an analysis of their balances at the close of the calendar year.

The customary annual audit of the treasurer's records has been completed, results of which are stated later in the report.

Our usual appropriation of $2,500.00 from the State of Vermont reached us in the form of a check for $2,300.00 with the balance of $200.00 remaining as a credit in our name with the Vermont Agricultural Department for multilithing services that might be required. The state auditor of accounts sent his notification that at the close of the year this $200.00 was still intact and available.

The Society received all the interest due from bond investments. There was a slight decrease in interest rates paid in on savings bank deposits and an indication that a few corporations had lowered their dividend payments.

Donors to the Coates Memorial Fund turned in $42.00 to the Society during the year. This is to apply toward the cost of the bibliographical project mentioned in the curator's report.

Through the generosity of some former members of the Montpelier Historical Society, your treasurer received as a gift $51.20 in cash and 59 shares of class "B" stock of the Montpelier Saving Bank & Trust Co. The cash was handled as a part of the current fund and the shares of stock as a part of the unrestricted fund.

Through correspondence with the Girard Trust Company of Philadelphia, trustee of the Mary M. Edmunds Fund, the treasurer was able to secure an explanation of the types of investments that the trustee chooses to use for the production of income made available to the Society. Consequently, a book adjustment of the principal was made to conform with the trustee's report. However, by virtue of the original deed of trust, the principal of the Edmunds Fund was not made available to the Society.

The Jennie C. Watts bequest of $10,000.00 is available only for the purpose of writing and publishing the Peacham history. Further reference to this project may be found in your President's report.

Respectfully submitted,

Albert E. Slayton,
Treasurer.

AUDITOR'S STATEMENT

In accordance with instructions received from Mr. Leon S. Gay, President, I have examined the books and records of the Vermont Historical Society of Montpelier, Vermont, for the period from January 1 to December 31, 1942.

I have compared the attached Statement of Resources by Funds (Exhibit "A") with the books and records pertaining thereto of the Vermont Historical Society as of December 31, 1942, and the Statement of Fund Receipts and Disbursements (Exhibit "B") for the year ending December 31, 1942.*

I have verified all items representing resources of the Society except the investments of stock and bonds which were examined and listed by the Treasurer and Mr. Howe, a member of the finance committee.

Subject to the foregoing qualification, I hereby certify that, in my opinion, the attached Statement of Resources by Funds (Exhibit "A") reflects a fair and true exhibit of the financial condition of the Society as of December 31, 1942.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated at Barre, Vt.
January 14, 1943.

FREDERICK A. MAYO,
Accountant and Auditor.

EXHIBIT "A"

STATEMENT OF RESOURCES BY FUNDS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1942

Current Fund:		
Cash in Checking Account (Exhibit "B")		$ 2,333.04
Unrestricted Funds		11,153.85
Trust funds for specific purposes:		
Dewey Monument Fund	$ 7,920.63	
Edmunds Prize Contest Funds	16,190.43	
Jennie C. Watts Fund	8,503.59	
Total Funds for Specific Purposes		$ 32,614.65
Trust Funds for General Endowment:		
(Wilbur Fund $100,000.00; Life Memberships $2,450.00; Capital Increase $534.21.)		
Stocks	$23,296.78	
Bonds	79,490.21	
Savings Accounts	197.22	
Total Trust Funds for General Endowment (Exhibit "B")		$102,984.21
Total Resources		$149,085.75
Surplus		$149,085.75

* The following exhibits are condensed from the auditor's report. The full original is available for inspection at the Society.

EXHIBIT "B"

Statement of Fund Receipts and Disbursements from January 1 to December 31, 1942

Current Fund:			
Balance in Checking Account, January 1, 1942			$ 1,193.68
Cash Receipts:			
Transfer from Unrestricted Funds		$ 2,000.00	
State Appropriation to June 30, 1943		2,300.00	
Interest Income:			
Bond Investments	$ 2,300.50		
Savings Accounts	327.76		
		2,628.26	
Dividends		1,502.75	
Current Dues		738.00	
Other Dues		56.00	
Sale of Books and Publications		94.64	
Income from Gifts:			
Coates Memorial Fund	$ 42.00		
Montpelier Historical Society	51.20		
David F. Colt	50.00		
Miscellaneous Gift	1.00		
		144.20	
Life Membership		50.00	
Damage Refund		1.68	
Total Cash Receipts			9,515.53
Total Cash			$ 10,709.21
Cash Disbursements:			
Salaries		$ 4,552.07	
"Proceedings"		1,474.23	
Publishing		134.75	
Books and Manuscripts		1,228.96	
Library		501.35	
Travel		181.32	
W.P.A. Project		50.08	
Miscellaneous Expenses		5.25	
Accounting Fees		82.00	
Interviewing Expenses		127.01	
Association Dues		12.00	
Bank Service Charges		27.15	
Total Cash Disbursements			$ 8,376.17
Balance in Checking Account, December 31, 1942 (Exhibit "A")			2,333.04
			$ 10,709.21

Unrestricted Funds:			
Balance January 1, 1942		$13,094.85	
Add: 59 Shares Class B Stock — Montpelier Savings Bank No. 6095	$ 59.00		
Savings Account Interest	207.00		
		266.00	
Deduct		13,360.85	
Transferred to General Account		2,207.00	
Balance, December 31, 1942 (Exhibit "A")			$ 11,153.85
Trust Funds for Specific Purposes:			
Dewey Monument Fund:			
Balance, January 1, 1942		7,806.42	
Add:			
Savings Account Interest	$ 71.59		
Class B Stock Dividend	42.62		
		114.21	
Balance, December 31, 1942 (Exhibit "A")			7,920.63
Edmunds Prize Contest Funds:			
Balance, January 1, 1942		15,239.90	
Add:			
Adjustment of Principal (Per Report of Trustee)	$1,050.58		
Savings Account Interest	24.38		
Trust Fund Income	475.40		
		1,550.36	
Deduct		16,790.26	
Edmunds Prize Contest Expenses		599.83	
Balance, December 31, 1942 (Exhibit "A")			16,190.43
Jennie C. Watts Fund:			
Bequest Received in 1942	$10,000.00		
Add: Interest Received on 1942 Bequest	191.67		
		10,191.67	
Deduct: Expense of Compiling History of Peacham, Vt.		1,688.08	
Balance, December 31, 1942 (Exhibit "A")			8,503.59
Total Funds for Specific Purposes			$ 32,614.65

Trust Funds for General Endowment:			
Wilbur and Life Membership Endowment Funds:			
Balance, January 1, 1942		$102,984.21	
Add:			
Bond Interest	$2,300.50		
Savings Account Interest ...	120.76		
Dividends	1,502.75		
		3,924.01	
Deduct		106,908.22	
Transfer to General Account		3,924.01	
Balance, December 31, 1942 (Exhibit "A")			$102,984.21

Secretary's Report

Pursuant to printed notice, the 105th Annual Meeting of the Vermont Historical Society convened at the Tavern, January 19, 1943. Dinner was served the 69 members and guests present at 6.15 o'clock. Grace was led by Father Maloney. The business meeting was called to order by President Gay at 7.20 P.M. All present were asked to clap if they liked the new form of meeting. The response indicated the change was a welcome one.

Greeting was extended by Governor William H. Wills, with a welcome on behalf of the State of Vermont and the Vermont Historical Society to Dr. and Mrs. Samuel S. Stratton. The reading of the minutes of the last meeting was omitted by unanimous consent. A nominating committee was appointed, to consist of John Clement, Chairman, Mrs. Mortimer R. Proctor, and Major F. Whitney Harrington. Renomination of the current officers was proposed, with the substitution of Mrs. Maud W. Pierce as Secretary, for Benjamin Gates, whose resignation was accepted. Miss Dorothy Randolph and Col. William J. Wilgus were added to the Board of Curators. Leave of absence for the duration of the war was granted Harold Bergman.

On motion of Governor Wills, seconded by Mr. Crane, it was moved the nominations be accepted. Dr. Thomas moved that the secretary cast a single ballot for the nominations. The Reports of the President, Treasurer, and Director were summarized, and the meeting was adjourned to the State House.

Reassembled 8.00 P.M. in the Legislative Chambers. The report of the President was read in full, and welcomes extended to Dr. Stratton from the representatives of the various colleges present. The public address: "Freedom and Unity": 1943 was then given by Dr. Samuel S. Stratton, newly elected president of Middlebury College. Meeting adjourned at 9.15 P.M.

Agnes K. Lawson,
Secretary pro tem.

POSTSCRIPT

WITH this issue of the *Proceedings*, a new editor takes over. If no other program were in mind, maintenance of the high standards of typography and content set by Professor Arthur W. Peach would be enough. Furthermore, of the changes which may be made from time to time, many have been suggested by Professor Peach. None the less, it would be impossible that any magazine not reveal its editor's own approach to his subject. This approach will not be revealed by a single issue, nor even by an accumulation of statements about the theory of editing. It will only appear in the course of time.

No publication can set a higher standard, however, than that of the material submitted to it. The editor takes this first opportunity to issue a call for essays on Vermont art, architecture, history, science, literature, and other related topics. Discussions of the nature and teaching of history, particularly local history, will be welcomed. And we shall be particularly pleased to receive old documents, letters, and diaries for publication: many of these tell us more of the manner of living of the past, than thousands of words of "secondary" material.

At the present moment there seem to be three categories of material around which the coming issues of the *Proceedings* will be built. The first includes general articles based on research, observation or speculation relating to Vermont. The second includes discussions of the approaches to history and certainly would involve continual reassessment of our own activity as well as that of other societies in this field. Here too will appear the annual history of the activities of the Society and the reports of its officers. We shall not hesitate to republish articles of particular interest or value from other sources, for we propose to learn, for the revitalization of our work, from other sources. A third department will include a variety of subdivisions; the chief ones being "Notes and Documents" and "Vermont Bookshelf." The former will include publication of significant documents from the files of the Society, as well as calendars and other finding aids for the collection. The latter will include brief reviews of current books; on occasion particularly significant volumes will be used as a focal point for an article on the subject matter treated. We hope to continue the printing of interesting letters, and will report on notable accessions for the lapsed quarter. Other things will turn up as they occur to mind or are suggested by our readers. We shall be particularly grateful for suggestions of all kinds.

A thoughtful reader has recently suggested that we print a map of Vermont inside the cover. This seemed like an excellent idea, and one will appear as soon as it can be drawn. A genealogical question and answer department has also been recommended. There are many difficult problems involved in this. The amount of research needed to answer a simple query is frequently prodigious and can rarely be estimated in advance. Furthermore, the material, once printed, is of interest only to the writer; this is a costly way of conveying the information to him. A historical question-box, on the other hand, might be expected to have a more general audience. But let us hear from you with regard to these things.

The one hundred fifth annual meeting, January 19, was, according to those who participated, the most interesting one yet held. And this was despite war-time travel restrictions which kept away our distant members and temperatures of thirty below, accompanied by high winds, which discouraged our local friends. The attendance at the dinner was over seventy, and was honored by a number of distinguished guests, including Governor and Mrs. William H. Wills, President and Mrs. Samuel S. Stratton, and President and Mrs. John M. Thomas. The presidents of U.V.M., Bennington, and St. Michaels were unfortunately prevented from attending by prior engagements.

The practice of holding the meeting at a dinner seemed to be universally appreciated as more convivial, and will be continued. We felt, too, that the extended reading of reports was highly boring. For that reason, they were summarized, with the note that the full texts would be available in the *Proceedings*. Next year these will be available to the members at the time of meeting, rather than later in March. This will be done by publishing the December number (which usually appears December 31) about two weeks later, retitling it January. This will enable us to include the reports and statistical material which members ought to have available to them at that time. Of course, this will also mean that publication dates will then become January, April, July, and October. This will result in no perceptible difference, for instead of appearing on the last of the month, they will appear on the first of the following month.

We had hoped to make our convention more vital, also, by holding round tables of discussion, in addition to the formal address. As a result of expectations of limited attendance, we cancelled such plans, but certainly shall revive them following the war. As it was, Dr. Stratton's address was widely attended by many who did not attend the dinner.

Another historical casualty of the year was the joint Champlain Conference of the New York State Historical Association and the Vermont Historical Society. Here again transportation difficulties made an extended program of historical discussion impossible, and the two directors mutually agreed that the meetings would have to be cancelled. They will, of course, be revived after the war, and we hope that possibly a similar Connecticut Valley Conference can be staged.

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The link established by Dr. Stratton between our historic past and the crisis of the moment underlines clearly certain functions of historical associations in war-time. It is increasingly clear that international social and economic trends have progressed to such a point that either continuous wars or international political organization must follow in their wake. If such organization is to be planned intelligently we must take consultation with our historic growth. We must know how our nationalism originated, what forms it took, what conditions it was formulated to meet, and what pertinence it has for the present crisis. If such organization is to be planned effectively from the point of view of obtaining acceptance from the American public, we must adapt our plans in such a way that they do not violate American traditions and accomplishments whose preservation value is highly rated. On the other hand, we must show clearly through public education, that history need not lay a retarding hand on

development forward, and that the study of history is not undertaken for the purpose of laying the heavy hand of tradition upon constructive idealism. The progressive historian knows that past progress — progress which has established glorious traditions — has been made under the banner of this constructive idealism, and that those who have appealed to history for a reactionary verdict have merely quoted the letter of the past and ignored its spirit.

That historical societies are cognizant of the part they can and should play at the present time is indicated by the latest issue of *Nebraska History*, the organ of the Nebraska State Historical Society. It is devoted entirely to the Nebraska attitude toward post-war planning, and in no parochial sense. Nebraska, like this Society, realizes that in national crisis, state societies must leap the mere limits of political boundaries and emphasize for their audience the fundamental values of history. It was in this realization that we published a review of the late Raoul Roussy de Sales' penetrating historical analysis of the last twenty years: *The Making of Tomorrow*. Dr. Stratton's address emphasizes further our beliefs in this regard.

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Legislature has today adjourned, and it is a pleasure to note that a bill has been passed and signed by the Governor, carrying out the recommendations made in the Editor's introduction to Mr. Crittenden's article on archival problems. The Public Records Commission has been provided with funds to hire expert assistance for the purpose of a detailed survey of the state archives. It has also been instructed to prepare a plan for a Central Archives, with regard both to space and personnel, in consultation with the State Building Commission. This is to be done in time to be utilized in the final plans for the new state office building.

The makeup of the Commission was somewhat altered so as to add the State Librarian and the Director of the Historical Society. This admirably reflects archival needs, in that it provides two representatives from men experienced with records, the President and Director of the Historical Society, and two men whose primary duties are concerned with the administration of these records in daily use, the State Librarian and the Secretary of State. The fifth member of the Commission represents the public, and reflects the necessary concern which all archives must have for their public relations.

We are proud of the part which the Society played in the framing and passage of this bill, and consider it a distinct service to the state. This bill will stand, from the hindsight of the future, we think, as second only in importance to the War Powers bill, so far as progressive and efficient state administration is concerned. The contemporary controversialness of a law rarely indicates its real significance.

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Another important bill sponsored by the Society was H225, creating a War History Commission, to organize the collection of the materials of history *while* they are being created. It was found after the last war, to the great dismay of historians and archivists alike, that many important records had

been destroyed and many needed ones never made. Let us hope that we learned our lesson from the last war in other fields as well as we have in this.

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Mr. Crittenden's article seemed of such import to state administrative and archival problems that, like our previous reprint on the techniques of archaeological research, it would serve a valuable purpose to bring to the attention of readers and legislators the critical problems involved. Indeed, since all legislators (we regretfully report) are not members, we published the article separately also, so that sufficient copies might be available. We have some of these left, and would be glad to mail them to any reader who would like to send one to someone else, not a reader.

We shall not probably, ordinarily, publish two reprints in a single issue. But the latest *New York History* came in with a perfectly swell article by our good friend and neighbor, Director Clifford Lord of the New York Historical Association. They have there, already mostly completed, the same sort of field museum as we visualize. No more productive technique than the visual has been yet put forward, to our mind, in the field of popular education in history. More people have learned far more from the national historic monuments and parks, so graphically run by the National Park Service, than from all the available textbooks in American history. Take it from one who is in the process of compiling a thirty-volume textbook on American history.

We must make great strides before we shall be abreast of modern techniques in this field. We must do this with limited funds, but much can be accomplished through the generosity of our members as well as through their interested aid. We need, for instance, the materials of the museum, as much as we need the museum. Our members alone, we would be willing to bet, could supply us with these out of their own or their neighbors' barns, lofts, attics, and cellars. Strangely enough, the things we want most, the things described in Mr. Lord's article, have little monetary value, but incalculable educational significance. There may even be a reader of this who himself has made a collection of these tools of the life of yesterday, and would be glad to place them in a spot where care would be assured and where they would be available to all as a lesson in the crafts of our forebears. This happened twice in New York — it can happen here.

After the war is over, or at least after gas restrictions are relaxed, we hope to make a personal survey of the rural regions of Vermont, as was done in New York. But don't wait until then — get in the "scrap" now. Much of the "scrap" in your attic or barn has far more historical than industrial value. We in no way wish to hinder the real scrap drive — we have given some heavy items of little permanent historical interest ourselves. But we have heard salvage officials comment that much of value has wholly unnecessarily disappeared into the recent drive. And this applies to waste paper, too. Those old documents and letters probably weigh less than a week's accumulation of newspapers, but may mean a great deal to some researcher in Vermont history. To make sure that nothing is lost to the government or the war effort, we guarantee to replace in metal or paper, the weight of anything turned into the museum or library. Keep your eyes open!

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